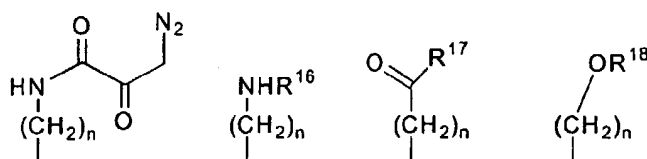


wherein PEG is polyethyleneglycol, ~~R¹⁹-R²⁴ optionally incorporates a pendent group comprising a cleavable linker unit, and may additionally comprise groups individually selected from the same groups as defined for R or may comprise a structure selected from the group consisting of [[~~



~~]]~~

~~wherein n and R¹⁶ to R¹⁸ and R¹⁶ to R¹⁸ are as defined in claim 9.~~

11. (Currently Amended) A polymer according to claim 9, wherein s is an integer [[of]] in the range from 1 to 10, preferably 1.

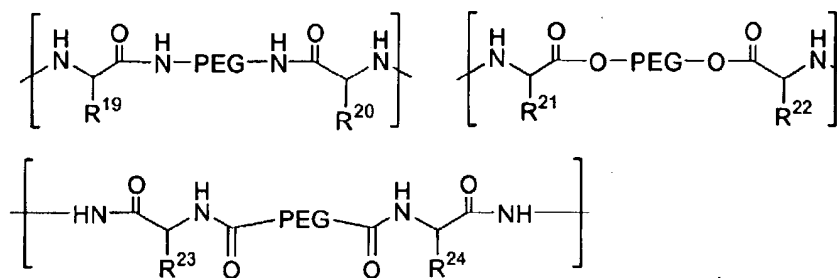
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12. ^{29 28} (Currently Amended) [[a]] A polymer according to claim ¹²[[9]] ²⁹, wherein at least one of R¹⁴ to R²⁴ incorporates a cleavable bond, ~~preferably a group (I) or one or more peptide bonds.~~

13. (Currently Amended) A polymer according to claim 9, wherein the polymer is conjugated to a bioactive agent, ~~preferably an anti-cancer agent, most preferably, doxorubicin, daunomycin or taxol.~~

14. (Currently Amended) A polymer according to claim 9, wherein the number average molecular weight is in the range of 0.5kDa-400kDa.

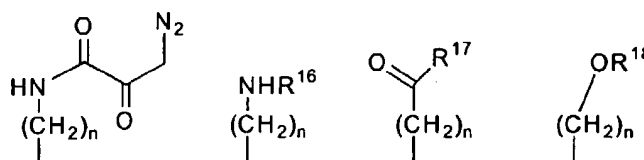
28. (Canceled).

¹²
~~29.~~ (New) A polymer according to claim 10, wherein L comprises a structure selected from the group consisting of



wherein PEG

is polyethyleneglycol, R^{19} - R^{24} are individually selected from the same groups as defined for R or comprise a structure selected from the group consisting of



wherein n and R^{16} to R^{18} are as defined in claim 9, R^{19} - R^{24} optionally incorporating a pendent group comprising a cleavable linker unit.

30. (New) A polymer according to claim 1 wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are hydrogen.

31. (New) A polymer according to claim 13, wherein the polymer is conjugated to an anti cancer agent.